

OBITUARY NOTICES

J. H. OTTY

M.A., M.B., CH.B., F.R.C.S.ED., D.L.O.

Mr. J. H. Otty, formerly consultant E.N.T. surgeon at Bradford Royal Infirmary, died on 10 May. He was 70.

John Horsfield Otty was born on 18 March 1904 and educated at Aberdeen University, where he graduated M.A. in 1925 and M.B., Ch.B. in 1927. He took the diploma in laryngology and otology in 1929 and the F.R.C.S.ED. in 1931. From 1930 to 1936 he held the appointment of E.N.T. surgeon at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary and was lecturer in otology at Aberdeen University until 1946. He then went to Bradford as consultant surgeon at the Royal Eye and Ear Hospital and Bradford Children's Hospital. He was also consultant surgeon at Staincliffe Hospital, Dewsbury, and played a considerable part in the preparations for the transfer of the Royal Eye and Ear hospital to new premises to become part of Bradford Royal Infirmary. At one time he was a member of Bradford A and B and Menston hospital management committees. He was a past president of Bradford Medico-Chirurgical Society and of the North of England Otolaryngological Society. His interest in the B.M.A. extended over many years. In 1941 he was chairman of the Aberdeen Division. He was for a long time a member of the executive committee of the Bradford Division and chairman of the division in 1956. A member of the Scottish Committee and of Council from 1944 to 1946, he was a representative at Annual Meetings from 1951 to 1955 and again in 1968 and 1969. He served on the Otolaryngologists Group Committee from 1953 to 1967. In the Bradford Division his wise counsels, quietly offered with characteristic courtesy and charm, were greatly valued by his colleagues.

Mr. Otty contributed chapters to various textbooks on his specialty. He will be sadly missed by his many friends and contemporaries, by whom he was held in the highest esteem. He is survived by his wife and two sons.—F.B.C.

W. H. KERR

T.D., M.A., M.D., F.R.C.G.P.

Dr. W. H. Kerr, who was in general practice at Swansea until March last year, died on 13 May. He was 82.

William Hogarth Kerr was born on 12 July 1891 at Kirkmuirhill, Lanarkshire. He was educated at Hamilton Academy and Glasgow University, where he graduated M.A. in 1912 and M.B. in 1917. He then served with the Forces in East Africa. In 1919 he went into partnership at Swansea, where he remained until his death. In 1921 he proceeded M.D. Between the wars he was attached to the Territorial Army and was appointed lieutenant-colonel as commanding officer of the 158th Welsh Field

Company of the R.A.M.C.(T.A.). From 1937 to 1941 he was assistant director of medical services in the 53rd Welsh Division. He was then appointed to take charge of a mixed hospital in Egypt and was mentioned in dispatches. After the war he continued to serve with the Territorial Army and was appointed honorary colonel and received the Territorial Decoration with four bars.

In civilian life Dr. Kerr took a great interest in the affairs of the medical profession at Swansea. He was a past chairman of the local division of the B.M.A., chairman of the local medical committee, and one of the founders of the Royal College of General Practitioners. He had a methodical mind and was knowledgeable on a wide variety of subjects. His talks and lectures were always clear and systematic, and as a good debater he put over his ideas with force and cogency. For 46 years he was a prominent office-bearer of the Scottish Kirk and he was twice president of the Swansea and West Wales Caledonian Society. Other interests included the study of Scottish history, particularly that of his own family tree, and in his workshop he was an expert woodworker. A well-loved physician, he was especially diligent in his care of the elderly and housebound. He maintained in the N.H.S. the image of the old, well-trusted family doctor.

Dr. Kerr will be greatly missed by his church, his fellow physicians, and his former patients. He is survived by his wife and two sons.—T.H.A.

P. J. HIGGINS

M.A., M.B., B.CHIR., D.R.C.O.G.

Dr. P. J. Higgins, who was in general practice at Westbury, Wiltshire, died on 22 May after a short illness. He was 52.

Peter James Higgins was born on 13 April 1922 at Calne in Wiltshire. He was educated at Millfield School, where he eventually became head boy. His medical training was undertaken at Jesus College, Cambridge, and Guy's Hospital and he graduated in 1948. After house appointments at Lewisham Hospital and Princess Alice Memorial Hospital, Eastbourne, he entered the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve and served in H.M.S. *Agincourt* in the Far East. After leaving the Royal Navy he held further house appointments at the Royal United Hospital, Bath, before entering general practice at Westbury in 1952. In 1963 he contributed an article on brucellosis jointly to the *Encyclopaedia of General Practice*, using the experience gained in the treatment of this disease among his own farming patients.

Dr. Higgins was a man full of compassion and sincerity who understood well his patients, their needs, problems, and foibles. He was generous and kind and would give total and selfless support to friends and patients in need. His great love of children

was reflected in the title his younger patients bestowed on him. "Uncle Peter" was justifiably proud of this mantle. A man of many interests, he travelled widely and had a particular passion for art, church architecture, good food, and fine wine. He would spend many hours searching out information on the places he visited and a subsequent lecture was always regarded as a highlight in the social life of his village. As a bachelor he devoted himself to the care of his father, and this of necessity in latter years limited his freedom to enjoy his own hobbies, but he was always tolerant and good humoured. A witty man, Dr. Higgins always established total rapport with his patients and friends. His premature death deprives us of a true family physician and good friend. He is survived by his father and brother.—

P.W.A., H.H.R.

R. S. STACEY

M.A., M.D.

S.F.D. writes from Baghdad: During his stay in Iraq Professor Stacey (obituary, 2 March, p. 397) was an outstanding teacher and a man of great vitality, always punctual and rarely missing a lecture or ward round. He avoided publicity and devoted long hours every day to his research, students, and patients. Deeply interested in sports, he loved horse riding. In 1946 he fell from a horse and broke his backbone and ribs, but after a few weeks went back in a wheelchair to his patients and students. A month later he was seen skiing in the mountains of northern Iraq. It was a memorable occasion in 1965 when he was invited to visit the college he had served with devotion. His old students gave him a great welcome and he resumed his lectures to the new generation of students with the same energy and depth of knowledge. This college will always remember Professor Stacey as one who helped in building its tradition of scientific standard and ethical behaviour.

N. ROSEN

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

H.L.V. writes: I first met Dr. Rosen (obituary, 8 June, p. 565) at a rota meeting in the district and we soon became great friends. We shared a common attitude to work and recreation. Nate was a skilful and devoted general practitioner who always felt that the patient's interests were paramount and he would devote endless time to them regardless of meals and sleep. He also led an active social life, centred about Roehampton Club, where he enjoyed golf for the last 20 years. For the last year Nate, who had never known illness, suddenly became ill and in pain. He tolerated the pain with little grumbling, but being unable to play golf was to him a tragedy. His death was sudden and unexpected. His family and many friends mourn his passing.